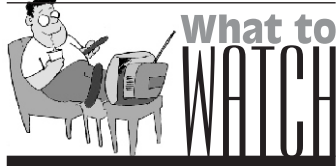




Did U Know?

In 1921, Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, borrowed a Latin phrase from his friend, Father Henri Didon, for the Olympic motto: Citius, Altius, Fortius ("Swifter, Higher, Stronger").



BTV
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Nazirpara Chandpur vs K'char Narsingdi
Live at 2:15 pm
MSC Jhenidah vs Bangladesh Air Force
Live at 4:15 pm

ESPN
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Repeat at 11:00 am
Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm



Martina Hingis

(Swiss tennis star)
"She reminds me of me, how she's fearless."
On Maria Sharapova, the second-youngest Wimbledon champion.

Star Whizz KID COMPETITION 215

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm August 20, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown?	Pasta	Amal	Murad
2. How many Test wickets has Shane Warne taken?	519	527	434
3. Who won the Wimbledon men's title?	Agassi	Federer	Henman
4. Who lifted the Wimbledon women's crown?	Serena	Sharapova	Venus
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Odumbe included

CRICINFO, Nairobi

Kenya's selectors have included Maurice Odumbe in their 14-man squad for the ICC Champions Trophy in England, though he could be handed a lengthy ban when the ICC gives its verdict on a match-fixing case involving him on August 16. However, there is no place in the 14 for Collins Obuya, the leg-spinner who recently had an operation for a swollen appendix.

"It is not easy to recover immediately after an appendix operation," said Harilal Shah, the chief selector, defending the decision to leave out Obuya.

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Fresh blood now official



SPORTS REPORTER

The selectors turned to three youngsters to give a boost to Bangladesh's brittle batting when they announced a 14-member squad for the ICC Champions Trophy in England in September.

The shake-up in the line-up was not unexpected after a less than impressive performance in the just concluded Asia

left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak. Despite being the find of the Asia Cup, the selectors did not want to risk him getting into further trouble with the ICC for having a suspect action.

"Actually, the situation demands that we change 7/8 players after a series. But we cannot make wholesale changes. Alok was due to be discarded even before the Asia Cup but we wanted to see him more of him. However again he disappointed us," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed while revealing the squad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The selectors picked Nafees and Aftab after a bitter experience in Sri Lanka

disappointing Asia Cup, where his team failed to cross 200 in four games against Pakistan, India and eventual winner Sri Lanka.

Whatmore, who has been in charge of the Tigers for 14 months, also branded his side as underachievers during the meet.

When asked to comment on that particular remark, the 50-year-old said: "I thought that the team could have done better. I also recall saying that when we improve, the point of graph never goes in a straight line. We started up okay, we had a dip against England here, picked it up again against Zimbabwe, probably held that position against West Indies as well. We came close to win on a number of occasions. But we dipped a bit again in the Asia Cup."

"Expectations can influence a lot of people and performance of the team. Just saying that this team is going through the motions is not right. We are still trying to translate all the work we are doing into victories. It's taking time," said Whatmore.

He however admitted that he has been working with a bunch of mediocre players but he did not believe that it was the end of the road.

"The Bangladesh cricket team is in the process of creating stars. Look at any other team, with an exception in Zimbabwe, every other sides have stars, match winners. We are in the process of making them."

Whatmore also admitted that technique is very important but he was keen to improve the mental game.

"When the competition starts, the game is 90 per cent in the head and players not as gifted technically can still be a good cricketer. Our situation is that we have not come out with the right answers in stressful situations."

The Board recalled MA Latif Khan to act as tour operations manager during the ICC Champions Trophy. Latif opted out both the West Indies tour and the Asia Cup citing poor health.

Meanwhile, the BCB is waiting for a health report on the team's physical trainer Justin Cordy -- now in Australia to decide whether they need to appoint a new man for the post.

"We are receiving updates on his current condition. In the meantime we also looking at prospective candidates before the team leaves for England," said BCB's cricket operations chairman Mahbub Anam.

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NAFEES IQBAL



AFTAB AHMED



NAZMUL HOSSAIN

SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Rajin Saleh (vice-captain), Mohammad Ashraf, Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mahmud, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Mohammad Rafique, Manjarul Islam, Tapash Baisya, Tareq Aziz, Nazmul Hossain, Dav Whatmore (coach), Latif Khan (team operations manager).

Olympic team leaves today sans Chumki

SPORTS REPORTER

Crowded with officials, the Bangladesh contingent leaves for Athens today sans country's top women sprinter Shams-un Nahar Chumki to take part in the 28th Olympic Games which begin on August 13.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) confirmed Chumki's eleven-hour exclusion yesterday due to illness that reduced the number of athletes to four. Chumki's dream was shattered when she was diagnosed with appendicitis and was advised by doctors to take at least two weeks' rest.

The four athletes to make the trip to Greece are Arif Hossain Khan (10m air rifles), Mohammed Shamsuddin (100m sprint), Jewel Ahmed (100m breaststroke) and Dolly Akhter (100m breaststroke).

Officials: Abdus Salam (Chef de Mission), Ferdous Ara Khanam, Mahmud Jamal, Shamsul Bari (team managers), Mohammed Mahmud (doctor), Nurul Haq Pradhan (NSC representative).

The contingent comprises with two young trainee athletes Muhaiminul Islam and Rafia Rowshan.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, Chief of Army Staff and BOA President Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and BOA vice-president Kutub-uddin Ahmed will also make the trip as official invitees apart from Jarnigar Chowdhury (BOA chief's guest) and Sarwar Hossain (delegate).

Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Nazirpara Chandpur vs K'char Narsingdi (2:15 pm)
MSC Jhenidah vs Bangladesh Air Force (4:15 pm)
Venue: Khulna Stadium

2nd Test from today Junior Tigers warm-up well

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-19 cricket team warmed up well for the second Test against England when they recorded a massive 237-run win over Development of Excellence XI in a two-day tour match on Sunday.

The young Tigers who trail the three-match series 1-0 and play their second Test against the home side at Taunton from today. The DOEXI were restricted to 298-8 in 104 overs on the final day at the Oakham School ground at Rutlin after Bangladesh amassed 535 in their innings on the opening day with Nafees Iqbal hammering 266.

Skipper and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque was the pick of the Bangladesh attack taking three wickets while Ashim Chowdhury captured two wickets and Nazmul Hossain and Dhiman Ghosh one each.

Semis today Army, Faridpur group champs

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army booked a semifinal berth in the ANAS Group National Hockey Championship when they eliminated defending champions Dhaka from the competition with a 2-0 victory at the

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Abahani breeze into Super Six

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani became the first team to reach the Super Six phase of the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League when they handed Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club a 2-0 defeat at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

Defender Shawkat Khan put the popular sky blues ahead at the stroke of the breather to the delight of the capacity crowd while striker Saiful Islam Khokon sealed the victory in the second half. The win enabled Abahani to maintain their unbeaten run.

With four straight victories, Abahani lead Group A with maximum 12 points and their first phase campaign will end with the mouth-watering clash against holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad (nine points from three games) in Chittagong on August 18.

The celebrated Dhanmondi outfit, champions of the first version of the tournament, dominated the match against the Chittagong team but had to wait to find the net after.

Khokon came close in the 20th minute but his right-footer from a Ujjal header went inches wide of the target while Nayan's long-range effort rebounded off the crosspiece soon after.

But finally, Shawkat relieved the title aspirants when the tall defender leapt in the air to nod home a Masud Rana corner in the dying seconds of the first half.

Abahani looked more organised in the second half and doubled the lead in the 55th minute when Khokon scored his fourth goal in the competition. His close-range header on a corner from captain Rakib was half-stopped by substitute goalkeeper Titu but it rolled over the line before the custodian could make a second attempt.

Playing without prolific Nige-ran forward Colly Barnes, banned for one match, Abahani had more chances to widen the margin but Khokon spoiled some good opportunities including a one-to-one chance from handshaking distance.

It was Chittagong Mohammedan's second defeat in three matches and they were left with just one point.

Yellow cards: Shawkat (Abahani) and Sharif (Chittagong Mohammedan)

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Our cricket team

LUTFUR RAHMAN

We are very worried at the dismal performance of our cricket team in the recent Asia Cup tournament. We know the other three participants were far superior but we failed to put up a reasonably good show. The team's performance against associate member Hong Kong is not at all encouraging though we won the match. In this match also the top order struggled to keep their wickets and score runs.

Though our main problem is mental, technically most of our frontline batsmen are very weak. We should have included another regular opener in the squad instead of having a makeshift arrangement.

Although Hannan Sarker was a failure in the Caribbean, I think he should have been given another chance. His main problem is that he does not know which ball to leave especially when it is new. I think this could be corrected if proper care is taken.

Another opener Shahriar Hossain is very injury prone. As a captain, Habibul Bashar should have been more careful in the initial overs. Time and again he lets his teammates down with his careless batting even though he knows they depend on him.

In the first one-day international in West Indies he tried to pull the very first incoming ball (little short of good length) he faced without getting the "feel" of the wicket, missed and was out lbw. Similarly in this recent Asia Cup

match against India, he tried an early front foot drive with an angled bat leaving a big gap between bat and pad to an in-swing from Irfan Pathan (Pathan's late outswing) and was bowled.

This was a highly irresponsible attempt considering the fact that Pathan could swing the ball very late with new ball. As a captain, he should understand his important position in the team and try to bat sensibly during initial overs to settle down first. I suggest that Bashar bats at number four promoting Rajin Saleh to No.3.

Although I don't agree fully with Wasim Akram who said that Bangladesh's top order batsmen should play first 15 overs safely, it does make sense under the present circumstances. Technically Javed Omar, Mohammad Ashraf and Rajin seem to be correct in their approach. Ashraf's omission from the home series against England has acted as a "tonic" for him. He has changed his attitude reasonably well and was successful.

Rajin should put more power into his shots otherwise it would be difficult for him to score in international matches.

Alok Kapali is a very natural gifted player and started his career with great promise. But I think what he lacks is cricketing "sense".

Time and again he got himself out attempting very silly unorthodox shots. One cannot imagine how he does it when he is set for a big score. Here I

remember another very promising batsman Al Shahrar. He is an attractive free-scoring batsman. But he seldom played according to the situation and never could curb his strokeplay when a sensible approach was needed.

I'm very disappointed at the batting of Faisal Hossain. His defence is very poor and he does not cover the wickets when playing on the back foot. His off-stump remains unguarded which can easily be exploited by the opposing bowler.

I would consider Manjarul Islam as a batsman first than a bowler. He is technically not very sound but does play with guts and strong determination and thus more or less successful. He should develop more power in his drive shots. There is nothing to comment about the late-order batsmen. They have proved their worth and time and again came to the team's rescue with their determined batting.

Among the bowlers paceman Tapash Baisya and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak performed very well though Tapash didn't get many wickets. Razzak was the find of the tournament and he should take care of his action if there is anything wrong as reported by the match officials.

Whenever our batsmen get bogged down after persistent good bowling they cannot push the score along. I suggest they should learn required techniques of

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Faria is in love!



DAILY MIRROR

A weeping Faria Alam will admit on TV on Monday that she is in love with Sven Goran Eriksson - but fears he will return to Nancy Dell'Olio.

Alam, 38, who told at the weekend of her passionate sex with the England coach, is questioned about her feelings for him.

She briefly buckles with emotion and asks for filming to be stopped. Composing herself, she says: "If I wasn't then (in love), I am now."

"But it doesn't matter because I am sure he will go back to her because she'll accept him back."

Eriksson's six-year relationship with Italian lawyer Nancy was pronounced over last month, amid the storm over the FA sex scandal.

Nancy, 45, is now holidaying on a Mediterranean yacht with friends. They are shielding her from the latest lurid revelations but are warning she will fight back.

Alam told Sunday newspapers how she and Eriksson, 56, were having sex at his villa in Sweden when he took a phone call from Nancy. A "shouting-match" followed. Alam also claimed Eriksson said of Nancy: "We are nothing."

On the Tonight with Trevor McDonald special, Sven and Me, Alam looks distraught when asked if there is any chance of the relationship with Eriksson continuing. She tells interviewer Fiona Foster: "No, I

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FARIA ALAM



PHOTO: AFP

LARGER THAN LIFE: A child touches a poster of a rhythmic gymnast at the Athens airport four days before the beginning of the 2004 Olympic Games. The Games will open on August 13.